

[13 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's thinking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that India is importing required quantity of modern arms and equipment for Armed Forces. The objectives of the Government is to acquire the best systems for the forces. Some equipment is indigenously produced and some are imported.

(c) to (d) The achievements of Defence Research have contributed immensely towards building up of self-reliance in cost effective indigenous design and Development of state of the art weapon system. The system and technology developed by Defence Research have given strong technological edge to our Armed Forces. Defence Research in India is regularly reviewed and aligned with the long-term integrated prospective plan of the Armed Forces. In recent past, certain systematic changes have been introduced wherein DRDO would focus on the critical technologies and those of strategic importance.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Visesh Krishj and Gram Udyog Yojana

2259. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of Visesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana;
- (b) whether some agricultural products covered under Visesh Krishi Upaj Yojana have been left out under the new scheme;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government propose to discourage export of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The salient features of Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana *inter alia* are to incentivise exports of Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Minor Forest Produce, Dairy, Poultry and their value added products. The scheme also aims to promote export of Gram Udyog products. Exports of eligible products under the scheme are entitled for duty credit scrip equivalent to 5% of the FOB value of exports. In order to promote the use of indigenous agricultural inputs, the duty credit scrip is reduced to 3.5% where the exporters avail duty free import of agriculture inputs (other than catalysts, consumables and packing materials). The new scheme notified w.e.f. 1/4/2006 retains all such agriculture products which were eligible under Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana as on 31/3/2006.

**Effect of mall culture on
small shopkeepers**

2260. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small shopkeepers, selling consumer goods, are facing enormous trouble due to the unprecedented acceleration of mall culture created by big business houses;

(b) whether Government have planned any mechanism to protect the business and earnings of the small shopkeepers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No such specific information is available with the Government..

(b) to (d) FDI in multi brand retailing is not permitted and even for single brand product retailing FDI is restricted to 51 % which requires prior approval of the Government.